Sr Archibald Grant of Monymusk Bart. Nr 64

A TREATISE

Touching the East-Indian-Trade:

OR,

A *Diſcourſe* (Turned out of *French* into *Engliſh*) Concerning the Eſtabliſhment of a FRENCH COMPANY For the *Commerce* of the *EAST-INDIES*.

To which are Annexed the

Articles, and Conditions,

Whereupon the ſaid *COMPANY* For the COMMERCE of the *EAST-INDIES* is Eſtabliſhed.

Mr Francis Grant 1695

EDINBURGH,

Re-printed by the Heirs and Succeſſors of *Andrew Anderſon*, Printer to His moſt Excellent Majeſty, *Anno DOM.* 1695.

The Preface.

SEing Precedents and former *Practices* of other Nations, followed with ſo great Succeſs, and the imitation of others, ſtill confirmed by the Experiences of all, can be more able to perſwade to the like Induſtry and Virtue, for the Wealth, Glory, and Strength of our Nation, than any new thing when propoſed; I have only Re-printed the following Diſcourſe, whereby the Author in thoſe days, by ſeveral Arguments of Utility and Conveniency, as well privat as publick, moſt elegantly animats the *French* to ariſe and beſtir themſelves more vigorouſly to a Reviving of Trade, and enlarging their *Commerce*: Adjudging ſeveral Advantages to the *French*, above all other People in the VVorld, from their Ports, their Veſſels, their experienced Sea-men, with ſo many brave Souldiers, their *Product*, and laſtly their King.

But in all theſe we abound and excell many Nations, except in ſhipping, which may ſoon be increaſed, We have Ports and Harbours almoſt every where, and eſpecially in the weſt Coaſt, which fronteth the Ocean, with an eaſie inlet and outlet of Shipping from the *River Clyde*, and a ſhorter paſſage by 200 Leagues to thee *Southward* and Weſtward, bound Voyages for *Affrica* eaſt or weſt *Indies*, with many Lochs and Harbours without Barrs and Banks, wherein many Ships may ly ſafely waiting for a Wind, beyond what *England*, *France*, or *Holland* hath. And for experienced Seamen, and brave *Soldiers Scotland* ſuperabounds, as is evidenced by the Supply the *Engliſh*, and *Dutch* Fleets have at preſent, being computed to no leſs than Ten, if not 15000 Sailers, and upwards of 30000 land Forces, if not 40000, Firſt and Laſt during this War. And lately there was 10000 *Scots* Merchants and Pedlers going up and down *England* Selling Cloth, and above 50000 *ſcots* Inhabiters in *Ireland*, yea, in My Lord *Granad's* time were computed to 100000 *Scots* young and old, I may alſo reckon many thouſands of *Scots*, that are Planters ſetrled, and otherways Servants in *America*, and *Weſt-indies*, beſides other places of the World, yea, ſome we had in *Affrica* and *Eaſt-Indies*, who raiſed their Fortunes, yet ſtill we have been hitherto advancing our Neighbours, but ſecured no Colonies, or Settlement for our ſelves. As Hewers of Wood, and Drawers of Water.

Scotland hath ſuitable Product to carry on a Trade to *Affrica* and *Weſt-Indies*, ſuch as all ſorts of VVooling and Linen Manufactories, Beaff for ſalting, and all other Proviſions for Shipping, or Tranſporting for ſale. VVe have all ſorts of Fiſhes, as Salmond, white and red Herrings, Ling and Cod-fiſh, Coal, and Salt, with Lead, and

and many other Metals, all ſuitable Product for moſt of Kingdoms about us; for which we can procure what other Commodities we want.

And now after ſo long athirſting of ſome for ſuch a Golden Opportunity as we find from ſo Gracious a King as we now enjoy, who far excelleth all the *Lewiſes* in *France* for Heroick Magnanimity, true Vertue, Juſtice and Clemency, all which are Concentered in his Sacred Perſon, ſhining forth in his Glorious Acts and Atchievements, who after he hath (under God) delivered *Britain* and *Ireland*, reſts not ſatisfied, until his Victories be Crowned by the general Peace of *Europe*.

What then ſhould hinder this Nation being made more Famous and Formidable, Abroad and at Home: If our Trade and Navigation were Increaſed and Encouraged, For by Gods bleſſing, you ſee we are wanting for nothing, ſeing his Grace His Majeſties High Commiſſioner, and the Honourable Eſtates of Parliament, have ſo chearfully concurred to make us happy by ſo good a Law and patent granted in our Favours, which will be recorded to their praiſe, but to our perpetual ſhame if not Improven. Therefore chuſe faithful and grave Men for Directors and Managers that have longeſt experience, as well of loſſes as profit, that can huſband and ſave, and not multiply needleſs expenſes; that are of no Private but Publick and generous ſpirits advancing mainly the Common-good of the Company in general hating all ſelfiſh and by deſigns of their own. We are happy in that we want not ſome worthy Country-men Abroad, who are of long Experience and Improvements and fit perſons, both for the help and honour of their own Country.

To the Treatiſe above-mentioned, there are likewiſe annexed the Articles and Conditions themſelves, as they were preſented to the *French King* at *Fountain Bleau*, where they received the Royal Sanction, and were furth with Imprinted at *Paris*, and the Reader may take further notice, that the *French Kings* allowances are inſerted in ſmall Print under every Article.

If the Re-printing of this be acceptable, I have another with the Conditions granted by the Statas of *Holland*, for ſettling a Collonie, in a convenient place, on the Main Continent of *America*, which ſhall be Re-printed, but the Tranſlation of it from *Dutch* into *Engliſh*, is not yet perfected.

By a True Lover of Trade.

A Diſcourſe

A Diſcourſe *Writen by a Faithful Subject to His Chriſtian Majeſty, concerning the Eſtabliſhment of a* French Company, *for the* Commerce *of the* Eaſt-Indies.

Dedicated to the Whole French Nation.

AS it is a Matter of great *Reputation*, and *Security* to any State, to have a People trained up in the Knowledge and Exerciſe of *Arms*; ſo is it of great *Utility*, and *Convenience*, that they likewiſe addict themſelves to *Commerce*, by which means the benefits of the whole World are brought Home to their own doors: Beſide that by this Employment alone, are acquired the two Things which Wiſe Men accompt of all Others, the moſt Neceſſary to the well-being of a Common-Wealth: That is to ſay a general *Induſtry* of Mind, and Hardineſs of Body, which never fail to be accompanyed with *Honour* and *Plenty*. So that queſtionleſs, where *Commerce* does not flouriſh, as well as other Profeſſions, and where Particular Perſons out of a Habit of Lazyneſs, neglect at once the Nobleſt way of Employing their times, and the faireſt occaſions of Advancing their Fortunes, That Kingdom though otherwiſe never ſo Glorious wants ſomething of being Compleatly happy. But in truth, it is with *Commerce*, as with

the *Liberal Sciences*, that Man or State, that would improve either of them, muſt be at *Quiet*; *Peace* being the ſame thing to a *Community*, which *Tranquillity* of *Mind* is to each *Individual*. What can be more Importune, or Unſeaſonable then in the middle of a *Warr* either Foreign, or Inteſtine' when every Mans Duty calls upon him to defend his Coun-' try; for People to be Undertaking of long Voyages, and Tranſporting themſelves into Remote Parts, their Principal Obligation and Buſineſs lying at Home! In ſuch a Caſe as this, He that *abſents* himſelf from his Country, is in Conſtruction a *Deſertor* of it, and turns that, which at another time, were an Honeſt, and Laudable deſire of Benefit, into a Criminal Avarice. The Broyles and Troubles of *France* for theſe *Hundred* Years and upwards, are ſo well known, that to tell the Story, were but needleſſy to revive the Memory of theſe Misfortunes, which we muſt ſtrive to forget. It ſhal ſuffice therefore to Note, that the State of *France*, having ſcaped ſo many Tempeſts, and Rocks, was yet once again emplunged in a Civil Warr at the Beginning of the Laſt Kings Reign, upon the point of Religion, which Affair being happily determined, and the People Reduced to their Obedience, without any Violence, either to their Liberties, or Conſciences; there ſucceeded an Obligation to Engage in a Conteſt with Strangers, which proved to be one of the longeſt Wars, that has been known in *France* ſince the Foundation of This *Monarchy:* And tho the Juſtice of the Cauſe, the Valour of the Prince, and the Wiſdom of his Counſel, have never failed of being attended with Victory; Yet certain it is, that theſe Advantages have not been obtained without Infinite Care and Labour throughout the whole Body of the State. So that it is no wonder, if the *French* having ſo much to do at *Home*, look'd but little *Abroad*; Eſpecially, into the Buſineſs of *Navigation* and *Traffique*, wherein our Neighbours in the *Interim*,

terim have beſtowed ſo much ſtudy, and diligence; and from whence they have likewiſe reaped ſo much Reputation and Profit. Some Private Enterprizes indeed have been ſet on foot, and without that Succeſs, which the Undertakers promiſed to themſelves: But this will not appear ſtrange at all, if we conſider, that the greater Part of the Adventurers, having other Affairs, wherein they were more nearly Concerned, during our Troubles, did neither vigorouſly purſue what they had begun, nor indeed ſo much as take the pains to keep the Frame of their Deſign in Order. But *now* that it has pleaſed God to give *France* the Peace it has ſo long deſired, and the enjoyment of that Peace under the Government of a Prince, whoſe wiſe Conduct, and ſteady Application to Buſineſs are at once the Wonder, and the Jealouſie of all *Europe*; *Now* I ſay, for our Country-men not to put themſelves forward toward the Recovery of a Right, which they can never looſe, and toward the gaining to themſelves, of thoſe ineſtimable Benefits, which their Neighbours receive, by the Settlement of a glorious *Commerce*, were to adminiſter juſt reaſon of Aſtoniſhment.

Now of all *Commerces* whatſoever throughout the whole World, that of the *Eaſt-Indies* is One of the moſt Rich and Conſiderable. From *thence* it is (the Sun being kinder to them, than to us,) that we have our Merchandize of greateſt Value, and that which Contributes the moſt, not only to the Pleaſure of Life, but alſo to Glory and Magnificence. From *thence* it is, that we fetch our Gold and Precious Stones, and a Thouſand other Commodities, (both of a General Eſteem, and a Certain Return) to which we are ſo accuſtomed, that it is impoſſible for us to be without them, as *Silk*, *Cinamom*, *Pepper*, *Ginger*, *Nutmegs*, *Cotton*, *Clothes*, *Ouate* (vulgarly *Watting*) *Pourcelain*, *Woods* for *Dying*, *Ivory*, *Frankinſence*, *Bezoar*, &c. So that having an

abſolute Neceſſity upon us, to make uſe of all theſe things, why we ſhould not rather furniſh *Our ſelves*, than take them from *Others*, and apply that Profit hereafter to our own *Countrey-men*, which we have hitherto allowed to *Strangers*, I cannot underſtand. Why ſhould the *Portuguez*, the *Hollanders*, the *Engliſh*, the *Danes* Trade daily to the *Eaſt-Indies* poſſeſſing there, their *Magazins*, and their *Forts*; and the *French* neither the *One*, nor the *Others*? What does it ſignifie to us, that we have ſo many good *Ports*, and *Veſſels*, ſo many Experienced *Sea-men*, ſo many brave *Souldiers*? To what end is it in fine, that we Pride our ſelves to be Subjects of the Prime *Monarch* of the *Univerſe*: If being ſo, we dare not ſo much as ſhew our Heads in thoſe Places where our Neighbours have Eſtabliſhed themſelves with Power? Were it not in a manner better for us to be without theſe Advantages than not to uſe them, and to reſt where we are, for want of *Ability* to go further, than for want of *Reſolution*? Would it not be a Shame to us, to make a difficulty of Attempting that in a State of Security, which other People have carryed on through all doubts, and hazards? And to ſtick at the bare Croſſing of thoſe Seas, which others ventured upon, even before they were known? Is it, that we lack either *Induſtry*, to make uſe of their *Inventions*, or *Courage*, to follow their *Example*? Would we have any thing more eaſie, than to reap the fruits of other Mens Travels: or any ſtronger Aſſurance of a good Event, than the Wealth and Glory which they enjoy, that have tryed the Experiment.

True it is, that there is is a certain Glory, which is ſo Inſeparable from the Inventors of things, that it is entirely theirs without any poſſibility of Communication. The *Portuguez* will be for ever Famous for their Diſcoveries in the *Eaſt*, and even their Kings themſelves think it no diſhonour, to be thought the firſt Projectors of that Enterprize. They ſay,

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that in the Year 1420. *Henry* Duke *de Viſeo*, Son of King *John* the firſt; being eminently skill'd in the Mathematicks, took up a ſtrong Perſwaſion, that there muſt be of neceſſity more *Iſlands* in that Ocean, than were yet known, and ſo ſent out certain Veſſels upon the ſearch, which diſcovered the Iſle of *Madera*: After which, others ſailing along the Coaſt of *Affrica*, made new Diſcoveries. This Deſign, that had been ſo luckily ſet afoot, was however interrupted by the Wars, during the Reigns of *Edward* the Succeſſor of *John* the Firſt, and of *Alphonſus*: but *John* the Second, who ſucceeded *Alphonſus*, (in perſuance of his Predeceſſors Beginnings,) ſent out One *Bartholomew Diaz* in 1487. to skirt the whole Coaſt of *Affrica*, and He it was, that firſt doubled the *Cape* of *Good-Hope*; to which at firſt he gave the Name of *Cabo Tormentoſo*, becauſe of the Storms, which are frequent thereabouts. And this Name perchance would have continued, if the King himſelf had not thought fit to Change it for One of a better Omen, (the *Cape* of *Good-Hope*,) which was grounded upon the Hope he had, that this new Progreſs would open a way to the Conqueſt of the *Oriental Indies*, an Acquiſition, which he thirſted for, with exceeding Paſſion. Yet before he would venture his Shipping into ſo vaſt a Sea, divers Perſons were ſent by Land to the *Indies*, to inform themſelves from the beſt Pilots of the Country, in order to the Voyage; But King *John* Dying upon the Preparative, left the Conſummation of this great Work to his Succeſſour *Emanuel*, who having ſufficiently Inſtructed himſelf, as to the carrying of it foreward, diſpatched away four Veſſels from *Lisbon* in *July* 1497. under the Command of *Vaſco de Gama*, who in *May* following Arrived before *Calicut*, having doubled the Cape of *Good-Hope*, notwithſtanding the Storms he met with; and the Violent Importunities of his People, preſſing him to return. After two Years Abſence, he brought

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the News himſelf of his Proſperous Voyage, and laid the Foundation of greater Hopes to come. In the Year following, the King ſent thither again 14 Ships, under the Charge of *Pedro Alvarez*, and after that, divers other Fleets to ſecure and fortifie themſelves in a Place, where they found ſo vaſt a Treaſure; and thus it came to paſs, that when the King of *Caſtile* ſeized upon all the New Lands, upon the Weſt, the *Portuguez* did the ſame in the Eaſt, and this was it, that gave Occaſion to the Famous *Partition* made by Pope *Alexander* the Sixth, who drawing an Imaginary Line from one pole to the other, (to paſs at a Hundred Leagues from the *Aſores*) Adjudged to the King of *Caſtile* all that which was one the Weſt-ſide of the Line; not meddling with any of theſe Eſtabliſhments, which the King of *Portugal* had upon the Eaſt, which ſince the Voyage of *Vaſco de Gama*, have been infinitly increaſed. Thus did the conſtant Reſolution of theſe Princes ſurmount all Difficulties; bringing both Glory to themſelves, and Happineſs to their Subjects. Thus did theſe new *Argonouts* addreſs themſelves to the Conqueſt of the real Golden Fleece: for in fine, the *Portuguez* are indebted to this Navigation for almoſt all they are worth. This it is, that has made them Famous in the World, and raiſed them into an Eminent Reputation, although One not only of the ſmalleſt, but of the leaſt Fruitful Kingdoms of *Europe*. It is this Traffick, (which they have now been ſole Maſters of a Hundred Years entire) that has put them in Condition to carry ſo high the Undertakings which we have ſeen in our days, and they would find it a very hard Matter to Cope, even with the Enemy at their Gates, if it were not, that the inexhauſtible Source of their *Indian* Treaſure, and Trade from time to time ſupplies them, for the Expence of ſo long, and ſo dangerous a Warr.

What has it been, but this very Navigation, and Traffick, that

that has enabled the *Hollanders* to bear up againſt the Power of *Spain*, with Forces ſo unequal; Nay, and to become terrible to them, and to bring them down at laſt to an Advantagious Peace? Since that time it is, that this People, who had not only the *Spanyards*, Abroad; but the very Sea, and Earth at Home to ſtruggle with, have in a deſpite of all Oppoſition made themſelves ſo Conſiderable, that they begin now to diſpute Power, and Plenty, with the greateſt parts of their Neighbours. This Obſervation is no more then Truth, their *Eaſt-India* Company being known to be the Principal ſupport of their State, and the moſt ſenſible Cauſe of their Greatneſs. In the mean while, who would have imagined that the Union of a few particular Merchants, that but in 1595, bethought themſelves of the very Project, and did not form this Grand Company till ſix or ſeven Years after, ſhould ever have raiſed them to that point of Opulence, where they now ſtand? It is known, that *Communibus annis*, there has been yearly 30, or 35 *per Cent.* clear Gain to the Sharers; and it is an eaſie Matter likewiſe, to make a near Calculation of their Occaſional Expences, and yet all this deducted, when they came to make a General Computation of the Eſtate of the Company, in the Year 1661. Reckoning what they might have in ready Caſh, in *Merchandize*, the value of their Shipping, Cannon, and what thereunto belongs, the Eſtimate upon the whole, amounted to a Sum ſo Prodigious, that it almoſt exceeds all poſſibility of Credit; Not accompting all this while, that this Company poſſeſſes more Land in the *Indies*, than the *States of Holland* have in the *Low Countries*; and this is it, that maintains for them fourteen, or fifteen Thouſand Souldiers, to make good what they have got, beſide Sea-men, and other People, which they employ up and down, to the number of near four ſcore Thouſand Perſons, all ſubſiſting thereupon. So vaſt

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an encreaſe of Wealth from ſo ſmal a Beginning would paſs abſolutely for Fabulous, if we did not both See, and Know, that at this day the *Hollanders* are the beſt monied People of *Europe*; and that in their Country, an Inheritance is worth more than in any other part of the World: An *Eſtate* in *Fee* commonly Selling there at 60 years Purchaſe, and *Lands* in *Soccage*, at 50; Whereas Money goes but at Three *per Cent.* (ſo much it is Cheaper than other Goods:) And this does not proceed I hope, from the Improvement of their drained *Marſhes* into Paſturage; nor from the Culture of their other Grounds (which are certainly none of the beſt) but barely from their *Traffique*, and chiefly from that of the *Eaſt-Indies*.

About the ſame time with the *Hollanders*, did the *Engliſh* likewiſe adviſe upon the ſame deſign, and Formed a Company at *London* for the *Eaſt India* Trade. This *Company* ſet out Four Ships in the Year 1600, which ſucceeded ſo well, that in a ſhort ſpace of time, the *Engliſh* made twenty Voyages thither. This *new Society* was powerfully Protected, and Encouraged by His Majeſty of *England*, who 1608. ſent Sir *William Hawkins* in the Quality of Embaſſadour to the Great *Mogol* (to demand a Free-Trade) in deſpite of all the Obſtacles, which both the *Portuguez*, and the *Hollanders* endeavoured then to caſt in the way. In 1615, His Majeſty ſent Sir *Thomas Roe*, and after him other Embaſſadours to the Kings of *Iapan* upon the ſame Errand, who wrought ſo well upon the Humour of thoſe *Barbarians*, that they not only obtained their deſires, but gained ſo far upon the Affections of the People, that the *Hollanders* themſelves in Order to their better Welcome, would often pretend to be *Engliſh men*. This *Company* prevaileth alſo with the King of *Perſia*, for great *Priviledges* in his *Territories*, in Conſequence of the Service they did him againſt the *Portuguez* about the Siege of *Ormus*. But it had been well,

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if they had found him as juſt in the Execution, as he was Eaſie in the Promiſe. However, be it as it will, this *Company* has made it ſelf very Conſiderable in the *Indies*, and has at preſent diverſe Money-Tables under Two Principal *Directors*, or *Preſidents*; the One of which, has his Reſidence at *Surat*, the Other at *Bantam*, by whoſe Authority the Trade of thoſe Parts is Managed. Thus has the Induſtry and Valour of thoſe People, Eſtabliſht and Maintained their Commerce againſt all Oppoſition: and though their Enemies hath done their utmoſt to Cruſh their Deſign, and brought the Difference even to an open and Bloody War, they have gained nothing but ſhame upon the Conteſt, without ever being able to hinder their Courſe and Progreſs, which indeed they had no Colour at all to endeavour to Obſtruct.

The *Danes* it's truth, Manadge not ſo great a *Trade* in the *Indies* as the reſt; neither are their Fleets there ſo numerous; but ſome Concernment they have likewiſe in the Voyage, and their Agents upon the Place; and from time to time they ſend out Shipping thither: their Buſineſs lies commonly in the *Gulf* of *Bengala*, upon the Coaſt of *Pegu*, and in certain Iſles of the *South*, where they have rendred themſelves Conſiderable.

In fine, the Famous *Guſtavus Adolphus* King of *Sueden*, thought himſelf obliged, as upon a Point of Honour and Greatneſs, that His Subjects alſo ſhould Viſit the *Oriental-Indies*, and other Parts of the World; and in the very Inſtant, that this Prince (whoſe mind was ſet upon *Dominion* and *Glory*) was diſpoſing of his Deſign to enter *Germany*, and Contriving the Ruine of the Houſe of *Auſtria*; he had likewiſe in his *Projects*, the Forming of a *Sueditſh Company* for this great *Navigation*, inviting his People to Intereſt themſelves therein, as by his *Letters-Patents*, dated at *Stockholm* the 14th. of *June*, 1626, is made to appear;

but the War of *Germany*, and the Death of this *Great Prince* coming on ſoon after, would not permit him to ſee the Accompliſhment of this Deſign, which ſince that time has been again renewed.

All this Conſidered, what would the *French* Nation have to ſay for themſelves, if they ſhould now let ſlip the Opportunity of an Enterprize, that has rewarded all that have ever Embarqued in it, with Reputation, and Profit? If we have neglected it hitherto, it may ſerve for an Excuſe, that we have not been hitherto in Condition to attend it, by reaſon of our conſtant Troubles. But now that we are in a State of Tranquility, and Peace, what ſhall acquit us to Poſterity, if we deferr it any longer? It would be very ill done indeed, to envy our Neighbours, the Fruits of their Honeſt and Lawful Induſtry, but it would not be well on other ſide, to decline the ſame means of Enriching our ſelves, if it were but for the Converſation of our *Common Good*, the Benefites of *Commerce*, ſerving as a Recompenſe for *Their* Labour, and Travail, while the greater Part of *Our* People ly Lazing at Home, as of no Uſe, and without Employment.

But Men are not eaſily perſwaded to Engage upon new Adventures, they are afraid, that things will not prove to their minds, and every man is unwilling to make the firſt ſtep These thoughts doubtleſs might well enough have become the *Portugeuz*, that had a vaſt Sea before them, and were to paſs into another *Climate*, and under other Stars, without any knowledge of the Courſe they were to ſteer.

This Apprehenſion might have been pardoned alſo in the *Hollanders*, whoſe deſign lay in a Country, where their Mortal Enemies were Maſters, and where they were in more danger from the *Portuguez*, then either from *Storms*, or the *Barbarians* themſelves. But now that the former of theſe has led the way to this Fortunate *Land*, and the Lat-

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ter has diſabuſed us, as to any fear of Peril from thoſe that were there before us, we muſt be willfully blind, not to agree upon an Advantage ſo certain upon the Accompt, and ſo eaſie to obtain. For whether *France* be more Potent, or not, then any other Nation, that Trades to the *Indies* is not the Queſtion, neither can it be diſputed, whether the *French* have not as good Commodity for this *Traffique*, as any other People, if it be conſidered, that we are poſſeſſed already beyond the *Cape of Good hope*, of the Iſland of St. *Laurence* or *Madagaſcar*, the Largeſt Iſland of all that Sea, being no leſs than *ſeven hundred Leagues* in *Compaſs*, and in the moſt agreeable *Climat*, of all *India*. The Air is ſo Temperat: that the ſame Cloathes which we wear here in the *Spring*, may ſerve there the whole year through; and Experience tells us, that the *Heats* of *France* are more troubleſom, than thoſe of St. *Laurence*. The *Soyle* is proper for all ſorts of *Grain*, and *Trees*, and askes nothing but dreſſing to be Admirable. There is no need of carrying Proviſions thither, as to other Iſlands, for the ſupport of the *Colonyes*; for the Abundance of every thing being ſo great, that the Countrey produces enough for it Self, and to Spare. The *Waters* are Excellent, the *Fruits* delicious, and without *Hyperbole*, the Place may be Improved into a *Paradiſe*. Over and above This, there are *Golden-Mines*, in ſuch Plenty, that in great falls of Rain, and Ravages of Water, the *Veins* of *Gold* diſcover themſelves all along the Coaſt, and upon the Mountains. The Inhabitants are of a Diſpoſition tractable enough, and with good Uſage ready and willing to be imployed in any Service, being a People Humble and Obedient, and of a Humour far differing from Thoſe of the Countrey, and of the *Iſlands* further up in the *Indies*, who will not upon any Terms Subject themſelves to Labour: Whereas theſe on the contrary, both love it themſelves, and takes pleaſure to ſee the *Chriſtians* work.

The Country is ſhared among diverſe petty *Kings*, who are ſtill making War One upon the other, and from whoſe diſagreements we might eaſily take a Riſe to an abſolute Eſtabliſhment of our ſelves among them. Beyond this Place the Trading lyes open without difficulty into *India*, *China*, *Japan*, and more Commodiouſly yet to the Coaſts of *Ethiopia*, and *Territories* of the *Emperour* of the *Abiſſins*; (where *Commerce* is ſcarce underſtood (to *Sofola*; where are the Richeſt *Gold-Mines* upon the Face of the Earth, to *Quama Melinda*, to the *Red Sea*, and throughout the *Perſian Gulph*. In a word, there is not any where a fitter Place for a General *Magazin* of all Commodities, to be brought from thoſe parts into *Europe*, then is this Iſland. But this Convenience ſhould not yet hinder us from Planting alſo in other Places, where it may be expedient for the Good of our Affaires; and ſuch a *Place* we have in our *Eye*, where no Perſon as yet Inhabits, which we have now in our Power to Seize upon, and where the greateſt *Commerce* might be Eſtabliſhed, that has been yet known in the World, (Where this *Place* is ſhall be declared in fit ſeaſon) So that it is our Part now, not to let ſo many favourable Concurrences ſlip through our fingers, and to looſe the Benefit of ſo fair an Occaſion. We are apt to admire the good Fortune of our Neighbours, and it deſerves it. But 'tis not enough barely to admire, unleſs we alſo emulat it; Eſpecially, having ſo many Encouragments to promiſe our ſelves a Succeſs at leaſt Equal, if not Superior to any, that have gone before us. Beſides there is a great part of the World that remains ſtill unknown, Vaſt *Regions* that are not yet diſcovered: So that although others have had the good Fortune to have preceded us, we may yet have the Honour to carry the Buſines further than they have done. But as it ſeems neceſſary for the bringing of this great deſign to Effect, that we ſhould follow the Example of other People in forming a Company among our ſelves for-

ming a *Company* among our ſelves for the *Navagation* of the *Eaſt Indies*, and that we muſt needs do the *Hollanders* this Right to acknowledge, that their *Society* is both the Richeſt and the beſt Road in the Myſtery of that *Commerce* of all; that have ever meddled with it. It will not be amiſſe to look into the Conſtitution of that Company, and the manner of their Proceedings, that any man may the better Judge, whether we have any Reaſon or no, to doubt of doing as much, as they have done before us.

THe Warr betwixt *Spain* and *Holland*, having ruined one Part of the *Hollanders* Commerce, without which they would have had much ado to ſubſiſt. Certain Merchants of *Zealand* Aſſociated among themſelves in the Year 1592. To go and Trade in the *Eaſt-Indies*; and particularly in ſuch places, where the *Portuguez* had nothing to do: but to avoid the Hazard of being too near the Line, they reſolved to ſearch a Paſſage toward the *North*, and ſo to Coaſt about *Tartary* and *Cathay*, and from thence to fall into *China*, and the *Indies*. This Voyage not ſucceeding to their wiſh, they joyned themſelves afterwards with ſome Merchants of *Amſterdam*, and altogether Equipp'd a ſmall Fleet of four Veſſels, which they ſent forth to *India* by the Ordinary way, under the Command of one *Cornelius Houtman*, who having lived long at *Lisbon*, had learned from the *Portuguez* the Secret of this Navigation. In 1595 they departed, and at the end of two Years and four Months, returned, without making any Profit of their Voyage. This little diſappointment did not hinder them from forming at the ſame time a ſecond Company, in the ſame Town of *Amſterdam*; and theſe two Companies being United, ſet forth a Fleet of eight Ships, that went out in 1598. While a third Company in *Zealand* were making ready for the ſame Deſign. In the Year 1559, certain other Merchants

chants of *Amſterdam* (the moſt part of them *Brabanders* framed yet another Company apart from all the reſt, which ſent alſo four Veſſels to the *Indies*. In 1600, this latter Company ſet out two more, which joyned themſelves to ſix other of the firſt Company: and theſe eight Ships being gone, the Members of theſe two Companies not waiting for their Return, Equipp'd thirteen Veſſels, (the firſt Company nine, and the latter four;) and this Fleet went to Sea in *April* 1601, putting the Profits of the firſt Voyage, into a Stock for a ſecond Equipage, There were at that time, ſome Merchants of *Roterdam* and *North-Holland*, that were Modelling of Companies ſeparat from the reſt (which encreaſing in this manner, gave greatly to fear that one would ſpoile the other;) whereupon the States foreſeeing what diſorder this Diviſion might cauſe, perſwaded them to unite all their Intereſt, and to ſend their Deputies to the *Hague* to endeavour there to draw them all into one Company, in which Propoſition the Parties concerned did acquieſce, and ſo there was conſtituted one General Company for the *Eaſt-Indian* Navigation, with a Grant or Priviledge from the States, expreſly Inhibiting all other the Inhabitants of the United Provinces, to Traffique in the *Indies* from the *Cape of Good Hope*, to the furtheſt part of *China*, from the Term of One and twenty Years, to begin from the 20*th*. of *March* 1602. By this Grant, it was left free for all Perſons whatſoever to Enter themſelves into the Company, for what Sum they pleas'd, Provided, that they declared themſelves within five Months; after which, no more ſhould be received npon what Terms ſoever. In this ſpace of time, they gathered together a *Fond* or Stock, of Six millions, and Six hundred thouſand *Livers*, Money of the Country (which make ſeven Millions, nine hundred and twenty thouſand *Livers* of *France*) and no man ſince that, has been taken anew into the Company, at leaſt without having bought

bought the ſhare of ſome of the firſt Intereſſed, which they call BUYING OF AN ACTION. There were made alſo diverſe Rules, for the Maintaining of Order and preſerving the *Intereſt* of each particular, which were Explained in the Grant. *In* the mean while, the firſt Term expiring in *March* 1623, it was continued for One and twenty Years longer, and in 1643, renewed again for 27 Years, in Conſideration of a Million and Six hundred thouſand *Livres* given to the *State*; and they are now Solliciting to renew their Priviledge again for a further *Term*.

The firſt Sum of Six Millions, and Six Hundred Thouſand Livers was Employed upon the Equipping of a Fleet of Fourteen Sail, that ſet out in *February*, 1603. and after that, of Another of Thirteen that departed in the *December* following. Till then, the Perſons *Intereſſed*, made no benefit at all of their Adventure, for being divided into ſo many private Companies, they were fain to lay out all their Gains upon a Stronger Equipage. But upon the Return of theſe two Fleets, the Profit was ſo great, that in 1605, the Company got ſifteen, for a hundred, and in 1606, ſeventy five for a hundred. So that in this ſhort time, they wanted but ten in the hundred of Re-imburſing themſelves their Original Sum. In this interim, the Company did not ſlacken at all in their Preparations, and Proviſions. They Treated with the *Indian* Kings, built Fortreſſes, and every where enlarged their Conqueſts, which vaſt Expences notwithſtanding, it appeared in *May* 1613, that every man was Re-imburſed his *Principal*, and had over and above, a hundred and ſiexy, *Profit*. As for Example; He that in 1602, put four thouſand Franks into the Stock of the Company, had received in 1613, ten thouſand and four hundred profit, and yet his Original Good in the Common-ſtock. And this Gain has been ſo much Augmented ſince that time, that there are few Years, wherein they get leſs than 30 *per Cent*. In 1661, they gained 40. In

1662

1662, there was no diſtribution at all, by reaſon of four Ships loſt, which they have never heard of ſince; beſide the extraordinary Charge they were at, for the Seige of *Cochin*; but in 1663, they had 30 again *per Cent.*

The Company at every ten years end makes a General Inventory of the whole Buſineſs, and by That, which was made in 1661, it was found to be in Poſſeſſion of the Immenſe Wealth above-mentioned.

This Company has not only Enriched Particulars, but the Advantages, which the Body of the *Republick* draws continually from it, are almoſt ineſtimable. In the firſt Place Commodities that are brought from the *Indies* into the *States*, Ports, pay at leaſt ſeven in the hundred, and before they come into *France*, are unladen in *Holland*, where they pay all their Rights of *In* and *Out* (before they come to us) ariſing to ſix *per Cent.* and one *per Cent.* more for the Duties of *Convoy*, which ſeven *per Cent.* go clear to the *Republick*, beſide two in the hundred more for *Factorage*; and the Charge of Merchandizes: So that upon this Reckoning, we pay twelve *per Cent.* more for *Indian* Commodities, than they would Coſt us, if we fetched them our Selves. Whence it follows, that our Negotiants, making the ſame Profit of theſe Merchandiſes, which the *Holland Company* does, might be able to furniſh us at twelve in the hundred better Cheap, than Others; becauſe we ſhould ſave the Duties, that are now paid in *Holland*; an Expenſe that every Year draws vaſt Sums out of *France*, where are conſumed at leaſt a third Part of what the *Hollanders* bring out of the *Indies*.

A ſecond Advantage, which the *States* draw from this Company, is, that upon every Renewing of their Grant, it makes them a Conſiderable *Preſent*. The Laſt (as we have ſaid already) amounting to no leſs than ſixteen hundred thouſand Livers.

In the third Place, it maintains at leaſt fourſcore thouſand Men

Men, the greater Part whereof would otherwiſe be a Burthen to the State.

The laſt, and the moſt important Conſideration is, that this Company, in weakning the Commerce of the *Portuguez*, who were a long time under the Obedience of his Catholick Majeſty, did alſo weaken the *Spaniſh* Monarchy (their great Enemy) and by that Means made their way to a Peace.

The Equipp every year for this Voyage twelve fair Ships; from eight Hundred, to fourteen Hundred Tun, which depart at ſeveral Seaſons; and every year preciſely at the end of *June*, they return as many, or thereabouts. The Company, and the States uſuall in the Month of *May* ſend out their Men of War to meet them, partly as a Convoy, and to defend them againſt their Enemies, and partly to relieve them with Freſh Men, and other Neceſſaries, as they have occaſion. The Principal Place, which this Company has in the *Indies* is called *Batavia*, a Town that they have built in the Iſland of *Java Major*, not far from *Sumatra*, they have there their Magazins, & Stores of all the Commodities, which they bring into *Europe*, from the ſeveral Countries of the *Indies*, of *Japan*, of *China*, and of Other Kingdoms. They have alſo *Colombo* in the Iſle of *Ceylon*, which they have lately taken from the *Portuguez* (this Iſland furniſhes the whole World with *Cinamome*,) In Fine, they poſſeſs divers other Places, even from the *Gulph* of *Perſia*, to the Extremity of *China*, and they have Reckoned a good while ſince, ſeven and thirty Magazins, and twenty conſiderable Forts, which they had in the *Indies*.

For the greater Advantage and Liberty of their Commerce, they have their Agents about all the Kings of thoſe Quarters, as the King of *Perſia*, the great *Mogol*, the Kings of *China*, *Japan*, *Cochinchine*, and divers Others. See now to what degree of Greatneſs this Company is Arrived: a Society of Particular Merchants, low enough at Firſt, both in

Fortune, and every way elſe; but now Advanced, not only beyond their Hopes, but their very Pretences.

But there is not any thing which a Company, of this Condition, by Union, Conduct and Courage may not accompliſh. This Truth being ſo clear, and the ſame Advantages now offered us, ſhal we not make uſe of them? Or ſhal we rather acknowledge to the World, that we want Unity, Addreſs, or Courage? The laſt is a Reproach, which our very Enemies will never faſten upon us; Nor with any Colour of Reaſon will it be pretended, that we want Addreſs. For (to ſpeak in this Place only of Navigation) it is certain, that better Seamen cannot be deſired than ours are, and the *Hollanders* know that well enough, who make uſe of the *French* more than of any other Nation, and find themſelves better ſerved with them, than with their own. As to the Point of Union (not to diſſemble the Matter) without doubt, we are there to blame, and 'tis a fault of our Nation, which certainly deſerves our greateſt Care to Redreſs. To ſay the Truth What a ſhame is it, that the *French*; the People of all the World the moſt accompliſh'd, a Nation with whom Valour, Magnificence, Good-Nature, Civility, Learning, the Liberal Arts ſeem in a Manner to have choſen their Abode. That theſe People, I ſay, ſhould be ſo hardly brought to endure One Another: that their Societies ſhould be ſo unconſtant, their Agreement ſo difficult; that the moſt hopeful Affairs in the World ſhould periſh even in their Hands, by I know not what Fatality of this Lightneſs; without which diſcord among themſelves, it were almoſt impoſſible to reſiſt them.

When the *Hollanders* began their Company, how many were there even of an Ordinary Condition, that ſold themſelves to their very Houſhold-Stuffe for the furniſhing of a Stock to begin withal; becauſe of the Honour, and Benefit which they foreſaw, would accrue to their Countrey. And ſhall the *French* having ſo many other Excellent Qualitie

fais

fail at laſt in ſo material Points, as to be wanting for their Zeal and Duty to the Glory and well-being of the *Publique*. I dare promiſe my ſelf this will never be; and ſince we are now in an *Age* of Wonders, that muſt give Remedies to all our Evils, and renew our whole Frame: Let us not leave the leaſt Mark of that Ancient Blemiſh; but by a conſtant Kindneſs among our Selves, and a true and dutiful Love of our Countrey give the World to know, that our great and incomparable Prince has influenced his People, and inſpired them with a Virtue, which they never had before.

But what ſhall we do then? will ſome ſay? Our Buſineſs in the firſt place, muſt be (as is already ſaid) to Compoſe a Society of diverſe Perſons, that will unanimouſly contribute to the Execution of our Deſign; which Society ſhall carry the Name of the *French Company* for the *Commerce* of the *Eaſt Indies*.

Our next Work muſt be to Equip a Fleet, and to go directly, and make a *Deſcent* upon our Iſland of *Madagaſcar* which we may do without any Reſiſtance, and being there with a conſiderable Eſtabliſhment, which from time to time ſhall be ſupported, and maintained by ſtrong *Colonies*.

We muſt then reſolve to carry thither, only men of Honeſty and Courage, not Criminals redeemed from the Gibbet, or the Gallows, nor Women condemned for Debauchery of Lewdneſs. Part of theſe People ſhall be Employed in Tilling the Ground, (which will be a matter of exceeding Benefit) while the Reſt ſhall be making themſelves Maſters of the Principal Poſts of the Country, and ſecuring of Ports, whereof there are diverſe in this Iſland, capable of Two or Three Hundred Veſſels, to Ride without danger. Thus much for the *Præliminaries* of our great Commerce.

I know very well, that this Propoſition will not pleaſe all People, and ſome will tell you perhaps, that the *French*

have been at *Madagaſcar* already ; and *What did they there?* They will tell you too, that Monſieur *Flacourt*, (who was the *Director* of the Company, that was then made,) has ſufficiently manifeſted the Vanity of this Project ; in a Relation that he has publiſhed upon this Subject. Well! But are we now to learn, that a Buſineſs that has Miſcarried at One time, may ſucceed at Another? How many great *Enterprizes*, do we find in Story, that have Required ſeveral Tryals to bring them to *Perfection*. The Firſt *Spanairds*, that Planted in the *Iſles* of *America*, were all ſlain ; and yet this diſaſter did not diſcourage the Undertakers from ſending more. The *Engliſh Collonies* in *Virginia* have been four or five times deſtroyed ; and yet this has not made them Abandon the Country. To come once again to the Example of the *Hollanders*. The Firſt ſtep, they ſet toward their *Indian* Adventure (endeavouring to find out a new Paſſage) was moſt unfortunat to them. The Second time, 'tis true, they got thither, but they made nothing of their Voyage. *Did* they give it over for that? No, by no Means, they returned a Third, a Fourth Time, and at laſt gathered with Intereſt the Fruits of their Preſervance. *But* this is not all neither, for the World muſt know, that there is a large difference, betwixt the Buſineſs of *Monſieur Flacourt*, and *That* which is *now* in Queſtion. A large *Difference*, betwixt a *Company* compoſed of a ſmall Number of *privat perſons*, and that wanted Stock for the Accompliſhment of ſo great a *Deſign*, and the *Company*, which is *Now* in Propoſal to be Erected. For after all; we are not without hope, that the *King* himſelf, (who has ſo great an Affection, and Tenderneſs for his People) conſidering the Notable Benefits, which this Enterprize will bring to his *Dominions*, will *Himſelf* I ſay, lend his Royal *Support*, and rather than fail, even enter into a *Participation* in the *Deſign*: So that the *Conſequence* betwixt

twixt *Monſieur Flacourts* Affair; and *This* at preſent, holds no Proportion. And this muſt be acknowledged too; that (the Miſfortune notwithſtanding, into which he was caſt, by the Fault of the *Company*) he has been ever known to ſay; nay, and publickly to *Declare*, and *Print* at the End of his Relation before Mentioned, that a conſiderable Settlement in *Madagaſcar* (which muſt muſt be vigorouſly begun, and watchfully purſued) would bring an advantage to the State of *France* beyoud Imagination: conſidering the Goodneſs and fertility of the Coutrey, the Gentle and Induſtrious Diſpoſition of the People, and the commodious Situation of the *Iſland* for the Entertainment of Commerce. And this which we deliver is Supported by the agreeing Teſtimoney of ſo many Nations, newly come from thence; as *Flemmins*, *French*, *Hollanders*, *Engliſh*; that to diſpute the Point, were to offer Violence to Truth it ſelf. *Monſieur Flacourt* did not ſo much as wiſh for more, than one luſty Ship to be ſent every Year from *France* to *Madagaſcar*. to carry on the Deſigne. What are we to expect then, that propoſe no leſs than *Fourteen* or *Fifteen* at a *Blow?* The Tranſporting of *Five hundred Men* thither was the very utmoſt of his Deſire, but we ſpeak of carrying as many Thouſands- The Disburſement of a Hundren and Fifty Thouſand *Livres* upon an *Equipage*, was a Sum that he had not the Confidence ſo much as to propoſe; but we have in our proſpect, the Expenſe of many *Millions* In a Word, his Reaſonings were proportioned to the Abilities of a *Company* of *Privat Perſons*; but we ſpeak of Erecting a *Company*, whereof it's poſſible, that His Majeſty Himſelf will not diſdain to be a Member; and by His Royal *Participation*, influence it with a certain Character, peculiar to the Dignity of ſuch a Conſtitution. So that the Odds betwixt our *Modell*, and his is Evident, and that we ſhall be able to carry our Buſineſs higher than ever we could have

have raiſed his Imagination. But let that go as it will; of the Iſle of *Madagaſcar* a Man may ſafely ſay, that that with a very little care to Fortifie there, we may have not only one Place, but many, and thoſe of greater Value, than all that the *Hollanders* can pretend to be Maſters of in the *Indies*; take it either in regard of the Place it ſelf, or the Convenience of Traffique. ſurely it cannot be denyed to be Incomparably more Commodious and ſafe, than *Batavia* in the Iſle *Java*, where the *Hollanders* have pitcht their Principal Reſidence. More Commodious doubtleſs it is, as being in a Gentle-Climat, and having within it ſelf whatſoever may honeſtly ſerve either to the Pleaſures, or Neceſſities of Humane life. Whereas on the contrary, there is ſcarce any thing to be gotten about *Batavia*; but the Company is fain to fetch from a far off the very Rice, Meat, and neceſſary Proviſions for five and twenty, or thirty thouſand Perſons, to their great Trouble and Expenſe. And then *Madagaſcar* is certainly a ſafer Place; for the Natives of *Java*, are a Brutal, Bold, Warlike, and ſtubborn People: by Profeſſion *Mahometan*, and conſequently haters and deſpiſers of Chriſtians. The *Hollanders* have for their Neighbour, on the one ſide the King of *Mataran*, a Prince, that ſhews himſelf now and then at their very Gates, with a Hundred thouſand men. On the other ſide they have the People of *Bantam*, (a matter of twelve Leagues from *Batavia*) who have often done the ſame as the King of *Mataran*. Whereas the Inhabitants of *Madagaſcar*, on the contrary, are of a meek and quiet Humour, diſcovering withal a ſingular Inclination to receive the Goſpel; ſo that one is more ſecure with a hundred Men in *Madagaſcar*, than with above a thouſand in *Java*. But this is not all yet, that the Place is more delightful and ſecure, but it lies much better alſo for Traffique: for I cannot but take notice of another Inconvenience which the *Hollanders* ſuffer,

in

in having their General Magazin at *Batavia*; it lies so far up in the *Indies*, that it makes their Voyages long and dangerous, and a great part of them to no purpose. When you have brought them within view of *Madagascar*, they have still a third part of their way further to *Batavia*; and when they are there, they must come back again the same way they went, and with the same Winds that would carry them into *Europe*; only to Traffique in the Gulf of *Bengala*, upon the Coasts of *Coromandel*, and *Malabar*, at *Ceylon*, *Surat*, in the *Persian Gulf*, and upon the Coasts of *Ethiopia*; and after all this, they must back again with their Merchandize to *Batavia*, and there at last they make their *Cargasons* for *Holland*. So that the very Situation of the Place, gives them the Trouble of passing the same way two or three times over, whereas by Planting our principal Magazin at *Madagascar*, all this doubling would be saved: for being there once, let us go which way we will, either toward the *Red Sea*, the *Gulf* of *Bengala*, *China*, *Japan*, or the most remote Islands, we are never out of our way; but when we shall have made our Markets, and carried our Commodities to *Madagascar*, every hour of our Passage will have brought us so much nearer home, so that we shall have nothing to stop us but foul Weather; none of this back and forward, this Turning and Crossing to make the way tedious. Take this along with you too, that when you are once at *Madagascar*, you are upon as good a Breathing-Place as you would wish, with all Conveniencies about you, to refresh your men, and follow your Course at Pleasure: whereas the *Hollanders*, after they are once under way from *Batavia*, meet with no such Relief betwixt that and home: (commonly a seven Months Voyage) for want of which, they are so miserably Harrassed with the Journey, that a long time it takes them to recover it. And there remains yet another Inconvenience; (from which we are Exempt)

that

that is, when they are come into our Seas, they dare not paſs the Channel for fear of the *Engliſh* with whom they are at Variance, upon the very Point of the *Indian-Trade*; but away they go on ſtill to the Northward, and ſo about *Ireland*, and *Scotland* (a Matter of four or five hundred Leagues Compaſs) to fall at laſt into their own Country by the way of the *German-Ocean* (which is the true reaſon of the Companies allowing an Augmentation of three Months Pay, to all the Officers and Sea-men upon this Voyage, above their ordinary Wages;) ſo that they have both Extremities of Heat and Cold to encounter in their Return. And we are now to preſume, that the Company puts upon Accompt all theſe Rubs and Stops in the way, which make the Navigation both more hazardous and expenſive, and Rate their Commodities accordingly. This is enough ſaid I ſuppoſe, to prove the Situation of *Madagaſcar*, better than that of *Java*, and conſequently that the Matter in hand is worth our care.

To inſtance now in our own Nation, the *French* make no difficulty at all to adventure upon the *American Iſles*, as St. *Chriſtopher*, *Martinique*, *Guadalupe*, and others (where there are at leaſt thirty thouſand Perſons) and yet theſe are Places, where there is no living without Succour from Abroad; and if the *Engliſh*, and *Hollanders* with whom they Traffique, ſhould not ſupply them with Bread, Wine and Victuals; nay and with Slaves too, to order their Grounds, they were not able to ſubſiſt two years to an end, without extream Miſery; which would enforce them at leaſt to quit their Hold. From hence it proceeds, that the *Engliſh* and *Hollanders* get away all their Sugar, Tobacco and Indigo, with which they furniſh us afterward, at a dear Rate; ſo that the *French* are they that reap the leaſt Benefit of their own Labours. Taking this for granted, what can be clearer, than that we are under a Groſs, and moſt unreaſonable Prejudice, in rather

chuſing

chuſing to ſend out *Colonies* into Places, ſubjected to ſuch inconveniencies, than to Plant a Large and Fruitful *Iſland*, fitted with all Advantages, both for Plenty, Pleaſure, and Commerce: And all this, becauſe *Monſieur Flacourt* failed in the buſineſs; becauſe a matter of a hundred, or ſix ſcore Men miſcarried in it. (even by the fault of the very Company it ſelf) Theſe People ſhould do well to obſerve, that we are now upon another manner of Deſign, upon an Enterprize not unworthy of that great Prince, who will have the Goodneſs to make Himſelf of the Party.

I muſt expect now to be Queſtioned, by what Authority I talk at this Rate, and who made me an Undertaker? Truly, I ſhall not take upon me beyond my Commiſſion; but I think it may be very fairly preſumed, that ſo accompliſhed a Prince as his Chriſtian *Majeſty*, will never refuſe to Comfort, and Protect his People in an Affair of this Weight; or ever fall ſhort of that Affection, which the Kings of *England* have conſtantly manifeſted toward their Subjects upon the like Occaſion. A Man may ſay indeed, that his Majeſties daily Acts are a Security to the Contrary; and he that ſhal conſider, that ſince the year 1658, the King has ſtruck off twenty Millions a year in Taxes, and ſince that, brought down the price of Salt: How that in the ſcarcity of 1661, (which threatned us with an inevitable Famine) he did out of his proper Coffers provide for the Importation of Prodigious Quantities of Grain, to relieve the Neceſſities of his People, and particularly of *Paris*, where the Number made the Evil the more dangerous. He I ſay, that ſhal duly Conſider, what we have both ſeen, and taſted of this Kind, will never doubt of his Majeſties Propenſion to further the Advancement of this Company to all purpoſes Imaginable.

If there were nothing elſe of Inducement in the thing, it would be ſufficient alone to prevail upon his, Majeſty to ſee that the Eſtabliſhment of this Great and Noble *Commerce*,

by opening an honeſt and certain Way of Livelyhood to the whole *French Nation* for the Future, would inſenſibly wear out, and baniſh all theſe Ignoble and ſhifting ways of Living, which in our days have been but too much in practice and Credit. That this happy Abundance would bring us again to a Sincerity in our dealings, and put out of Countenance that Trade of Wrangling, which the inſatiable Greedineſs of a Lazy ſort of Men has raiſed to the higheſt Degree of *Iniquity*. That it will be a ſure way of Employment for thoſe that languiſh for want of Buſineſs, whoſe *Induſtrey* is as good as loſt when it is not exerciſed. And in Concluſion, that it will be an indubitable Relief to a World of Poor; who have at preſent no other Choice, than either a ſhameful Beggery: or ſome Criminal Courſe to deliver themſelves from it. So that ſince the Thing in Queſtion, has no leſs an Influence upon the Intereſt and Honour of the State, than upon the *Profit* of Particular Perſons: We may be confident of his Majeſties Royal Favour and Aſſiſtance toward the Accompliſhment of ſo Glorious, and Beneficial a Work.

TO come to the Point then, there muſt be firſt a Fond, or Stock, of ſix Millions to be laid out upon the Equipage of twelve, or fourteen fair Ships of burden, from eight Hundred, to fourteen Hundred Tun, for the Convenience of paſſing ſuch a Number of Perſons into our Iſle of *Madagaſcar*, as may take Poſſeſſion of it in a handſom Faſhion.

I would here propoſe that his Majeſty might be humbly beſought, to put in for a tenth Part, and I perſwade my ſelf it might be readily obtained.

I am further aſſured, that there are divers Perſons of Eminent Condition in this Kingdom, that would be willing to venture Conſiderable *Sums* upon this Bottom, in caſe the Merchants, who ſhall firſt Aſſociat toward this Conſtitution, ſhal

ſhal think it convenient. And in this caſe, I reckon upon three Millions, as good as raiſed; ſo that we are Advanced the One Half already. And for the Other Moyety, I would recommend it to all Merchants, Burgers of Towns, and in a more eſpecial Manner to all that love the Honour of their Country, and deſire the Laudable Advancement of their proper Fortunes, to bethink themſelves ſeriouſly of the Buſineſs, and to make their Zeal as Remarkable to the preſent Age, as the Reward of it will Render them in their Generations to Poſterity.

For their further encouragement, I have great reaſon to believe, that his Majeſty, after his engagement for a Tenth in the firſt Expedition, will be prevailed with to furniſh more for the Second, Third, and Fourth, if it ſhal be thought needful.

His Majeſty may be alſo ſupplicated to remit to this Company, the One Half of his Rights of Entry & Cuſtoms, throughout all *France*, for all *Indian* Commodities Imported thither.

In fine, upon a ſtrong Preſumption, that the King will ſhew himſelf in this, as in all other Caſes, the Father of His People: I flatter my ſelf with a ſtrange Hope, that His Majeſty may be perſwaded to take upon Himſelf, the Riſque of the firſt eight or ten Years, which if it comes to paſs, let the world Judge by that ſignal Engagement, how His Majeſty ſtands Affected to this Affair, and whether the Opinion, which I have entertained concerning it, be not ſomewhat more than the Viſion of a Man, that dreams waking.

As for Privat Perſons, they ſhal have Liberty to Intereſt themſelves in the Company for what Sum they pleaſe, till the Stock ſhal be Compleat; after which no more ſhal be Admitted: And for the ſpeedier Raiſing of the Sum, His Majeſty ſhal be deſired, that Strangers (as to that Particular) may have the ſame Freedom with *French-men* themſelves; by vertue whereof they ſhal ſtand Naturalized, without need of any other Grace; Provided that their Engagement

exceed the Sum of ten Thouſand Livres, in conſideration of which Intereſt, their Kindred, although Strangers, ſhal be qualified to inherit their Eſtates. And for further Security, His Majeſty muſt be deſired to Grant, that in caſe of any Rupture betwixt this Crown and the States, whereof ſuch Strangers ſhal be Subjects, their Goods ſhal not thereupon be Seized or Confiſcated, in Conſequence of the War.

This Company ſhal then have its Directors; and to take away all Jealouſie from the Negotiants, of being One oppreſſed by Another, theſe Directors ſhal be choſen out of the Body of the Merchants only, and the whole Stock put into the Hands of One Perſon to be named on their Part. And for the greater Encouragement of Strangers, and in Teſtimony of the Truſt, that ſhal be repoſed in them, they ſhal be declared Capable of being *Heads* and *Directors* of the *Company*; provided, that they bring in an Intereſt Correſpondent thereunto, and ſettle in *France* with their Families.

The King muſt be ſupplicated again to permit, that the Cauſes of the Company may in the Firſt Place be brought before the next Conſulary Juſtice, and by Appeal to the Parliament.

In fine, every man ſhal be free to Offer his Advice for the Good of the Company: or, for the Security of any of the Perſons therein concerned: and his Opinion ſhal be received with Reſpect, and followed ſo far as ſhal be found Expedient. I have now delivered my Thoughts upon this Subject, which have not been hitherto unacceptable, where ever I have imparted them.

But *Fear* and *Diſtruſt* (thoſe two Ignoble Paſſions, and the Enemies of all great Undertakings,) will perhaps have the Power to work upon ſome eaſie Natures, by their ill grounded and miſtaken Reaſons; which (ſuch as they are) we ſhal frankly lay open, for the ſervice of thoſe who otherwiſe might poſſibly ſuffer themſelves to be ſurprized.

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The First Objection is drawn from the Ordinary Uncertainty of Events, which is the great Common Place of such as want Resolution, who will tell you, that *A Man can have no Assurance, that this new Navigation, will ever come to what we Imagine*; That *Our Neighbours being already in Possession of the* Indian *Commerce, where they are powerfully Settled, and Rooted in Familiarities with the Natives, with whom they Trade, it will be a hard matter to bring them over to us*: *And that* in fine, *being before-handed, and having great Magazins, and Stores, they will appoint their Factors perchance to beat down the Market, and under-sell us*: *So that we shal be quickly reduced either to throw off all, or Trade to Loss.* All this is easily Answered, and we will do it in Order.

As to the first Objection, I reckon that it can never enter into the thought of a man of Courage. Have our Neighbours prospered in this Navigation, even beyond their Hopes, and is it a reasonable Question to ask, whether we shall succeed or no? It is without dispute, a Point of false Prudence to doubt it. How seldom is this same froward Wisdom in the Right, which requires more certainty than the thing will bear, that would have the Future in hand, and cannot content it self with a well-grounded Probability? This was it that made so many of the Christian Princes to reject the Propositon of the Famous *Columbus*, of which notwithstanding, they saw afterwards the Effects to their Amazement (the first that boggled at the Design being the *Genoeses*) he discoursed the Business to the King of *Portugal*, but he had as good have said nothing: and to as little purpose was the Project broken to the King of *England*, and to the *French* King too: (as some say) and the Favourable Audience that he had of *Ferdinand*, and *Isabel*, would have signified just as much as the rest, if a privat man had not born the Charge of his first Expedition, by the Advance of sixteen thousand Gold *Ducats*, that were employed

employed upon it. The King of *Spain* has the ſame Obligation alſo, for the Diſcovery of *Peru* to three privat Perſons that joyned in the Deſign, which paſſed a while for an Extravagant Folly, till the Event made it appear to be an Act of Profound Wiſdom. In the mean time, the Difference we here ſpeak of, was not without ſome plauſible Appearance of Reaſon; the thing being as then in doubt; but with us 'tis another Caſe. The Gain is certain, and the good Fortune which others have had there already, tells us what we our ſelves are now to expect. In one word, if our Deſign miſcarry, 'tis our own Fault, and we cannot ſay, that the Execution of it is not in our own hands, without offence to Truth and Honour at once.

As to the ſecond Objection, which concerns the Vent of our Merchandize, the Conceit is idle. For firſt, the Company may be ſure of *France*; becauſe (as we have proved already) they may afford their Commodities at ten or twelve in the Hundred, better Cheap than the *Hollanders*, (which riſes to more than a man would imagine, till he comes to Compute, that *France* alone conſumes at leaſt a third Part of what is brought out of *India*.) But beſides, it will not enter into my underſtanding, why Strangers ſhould not as ſoon buy of us, as of our Neighbours; eſpecially, when their Intereſt leads them to it; *France* being placed in the very heart of *Europe*, and Acceſſible on every ſide. I ſhall ſay more, which is, that ſince Strangers are already under an Obligation with us, for four principal Commodities, which we have in Excellence, (and which an *Italian* of great Authority, call the four *Load-ſtones*, that draw other Nations to us) that is to ſay, *Corn*, *Wine*, *Salt* and *Hemp*; there is no doubt, but they that Traffique with us for theſe things, would be very well content to take off our *Indian* Merchandize, as far as they have Occaſion for it all under one; which would be very

ry much for the Merchants eaſe, to furniſh himſelf with whatſoever he can deſire, at one and the ſame Market; ſo that it is rational to believe, not only that our *Indian* Merchandize will not be left upon our hands, but that we ſhall have a quicker Sale for it, than other people; and by this means recover the great Traffique which *France* had of old, before the *Portuguez* found out the Navigation of the *Eaſt-Indies*: for in thoſe days, all the *Perſian* and *Indian* Merchandiſe, was brought by Land into *Egypt*, from thence by Sea to *Marſeilles*, and there diſtributed. In conſequence hereof, it is not unlikely, that our Neighbours whoſe beſt Card is their Commerſe, will try all the ways in the World to Croſs us. And this is the Foundation of the third Objection.

In truth it may very well be, and that they will not ſtick even to pick their own Pockets, rather than we we ſhall fill ours, and ſhew us a thouſand Tricks to make us ſick of our Buſineſs. It is poſſible, that for a while they will be content to ſet their Merchandize at an under Rate, to looſe a little at preſent, to get the more hereafter, and trifle away a Million or two upon the Experiment. But how long will this *Frolick* hold? Or can any man imagine, that to do us a Miſchief, they will reſolve abſolutely to Ruine themſelves? After all, the Conſideration how far they would expoſe themſelves upon this Deſign, to divert and diſcourage us ſerves only to confirm me in my firſt Opinion of it. They are not a People to do great things to no purpoſe, nor would they throw away ſo much Treaſure now, but in order to the Conſervation of their future Intereſt. Again, they would not ſtickle ſo hard for a ſmall Matter, and the very Induſtry they uſe to hinder our Commerce, proves the Benefit conſiderable if we carry it; ſo that this Objection is ſo far from moving us to relinquiſh our Enterprize, that on the other ſide, it raiſes both our Hopes and Reſolutions to

go

go through with it? To ſay all in a word, if ſo great a Bleſſing does attend us, as His Majeſties Conſent, that all the Loſs which ſhall befal the Company, for the firſt eight or ten Years, may be made good upon the Stock which His Majeſty ſhall vouchſafe to venture in the Deſign; What have we then to fear? Can it be, that a Party of privat Merchants (for ſuch are our Neighbours Companies) ſhall have the power to ſink a Deſign, which one of the Greateſt *Princes* of the World, has a mind to ſupport? A *Prince*, who by the admirable order of his Conduct, the juſt Adminiſtration of his Revenue, and by his fatherly Goodneſs toward his *People*, has put himſelf into a Condition, to undertake without fear, whatſoever may be put in Execution with Honour and Juſtice. No, no, our Neighbours are too wiſe to make ſo dangerous an Experiment! Let us ſay rather, that they ſhall ſee us take part of their Commerce, either with *Pleaſure* as their principal Allies, or however without having it in their power to harm us.

The ſecond Scruple objected by ſome particulars, ariſes from the Conſideration of certain unhappy Effects of our paſt Troubles. The prodigious *Expenſes* which the King was at, while he was forced to maintain a War in all the parts of *Europe*; (which has now brought us however to the moſt glorious Conſtitution that the State of *France* ever enjoyed) thoſe Expenſes I ſay, having obliged His Majeſty to call for Supplies of Money, now and then from his *People*, have left in them certain dark Imaginations and Jealouſies, that the Stock of the Company being a publick Treaſure, upon the Kings next occaſion, His Majeſty might perchance Seize it as His own; ſo that it would be a madneſs for privat *Perſons* to venture their *Fortunes* in a Bottom, which the King may make himſelf Maſter of at *Pleaſure*. But theſe are weak Heads God knows, and that they

ſay,

ſay, is certainly unworthy, both of the Proſpe r y (Affairs, and the Magnamity of our Prince.

The King they ſay, may perchance lay hand upon the Companies Stock, becauſe 'tis Publick Money. But I ſay that the King will never do it: for that very Reaſon, His Majeſty has heretofore had great Wars upon his Hands, his Treaſury Drained, and his Finances Miſ-managed, to the great diſ-ſatisfaction of his *People*; but in the middle of this preſſing Neceſſity, can any man ſay, that the King ever fingered any of the Publick Money: was His Majeſty ever known to Order the Receiver of Conſignations to empty his Coffers in the hands of His Treaſurers? Never had any Creature ſuch a thought. For the Publick Treaſure is a kind of Sacred Truſt, and it were a ſort of Sacriledge to abuſe it. Why ſhould any mn ſ ſpect the King capable of ſo prophane a Violence? And that he ſhould take that now too, when his Coffers are full, which in his greateſt Wants, he ever made a Conſcience to meddle with? But it will be ſaid again, that the World is uncertain, and all that is in it, and that the greateſt Felicity imaginable cannot warrant it ſelf from Misfortune. This is true, and I think no man will diſpute the Humour and Caprice of Fortune; but let us judge of things by probability (if not, by ſomewhat more ſubſtantial.) We ſee, that moſt of our Neighbours have their hands full at home; others are weak, and thoſe whom we have found formerly moſt to be feared, are now well enough ſatisfied to be at peace with us. Let us conſider on the other hand, the Power of our Prince, and the unmoveable Foundations of that Power. In his Menage of Affairs of State, His Majeſty is Aſſiduous and Indefatigable. As to the Ordering of his *Finances*, he looks after it himſelf, and underſtands the whole Buſineſs of his Revenue no man better. If we turn our thoughts now toward thoſe Bleſſings which Heaven hath ſhowered upon

his Royal Perſon, that clearneſs of Wit, ſolidity of Judgment, vigour of Body, Health, Youth; We have reaſon to believe, (if we may believe any thing in this World) that our good Fortune will be long-lived, and that God will reward his Royal Piety, and Juſtice, with a Reign as laſting as happy, and not to refuſe His Chriſtian Majeſty, a Grace which Heaven has ſometime beſtowed even upon Pagan Princes, and Conferred upon the Reign of *Auguſtus*. Away then with this lewd Diſtruſt, that Embitters all our Delights, and troubles our Heads with the Apprehenſion of Evils, which are never likely to concern us. Let it never be imagined, that a Prince ſo Generous and Juſt, after the ſolemn Eſtabliſhment of a Company, under the Seal of his Authority, can ever have the thought to invade the Eſtates of privat Perſons, putting themſelves under his Protection, and by ſo foul a Violence to blaſt the Glory of his Unſpotted Reputation. In a word, let not any man think that His Majeſties flouriſhing Condition, can ever be reduced to ſtand in need of ſo hateful an Expedient, and after that, ſo Unprofitable. For *in fine*, (to leave this Opinion nothing to ſay for it ſelf) I dare affirm, that if the King both wanted Money, and had a mind to ſeize it, the Eſtate of the Company would be yet ſecure. For let us look into *Holland*, and we ſhall find wherein the Wealth of theſe Companies conſiſts: 'tis true, they have a world of Merchandize diſpoſed of up and down in their *Magazines*, both in *India* and *Europe*, they have their Shipping, their Canon, and their neceſſary *Equipages*; but for Money, alas, 'tis the leaſt part of the Riches; and indeed their Caſh, compared with the reſt, is ſcarce conſiderable. Now I pray you tell me, were it not a pleaſant Project for a King of *France* that had need of Money, to make Seizure of all theſe Commodities, and that at three or four hundred Leagues diſtance for the great part. Put caſe that he were

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to raiſe an Army to prevent an Invaſion, and wanted Money upon that pinch, or to pay off ſome mutinous Troups; were it not a ready way think ye, to ſend a Matter of a hundred or ſixſcore Wagons, to the Houſe of the *Indian* Company for ſo many Load of *Cinnamon*, and *Nutmegs*? Do Princes uſe to pay their Souldiers with Baggs of *Pepper* and *Cloves*? No! no, in ſuch Caſes this will never do their Buſineſs. In a State of War there muſt be Money in kind, and not that which makes Money in a time of Peace. Wherefore ſince the Eſtates of this Company will not ly in Caſh, which is the only thing, that Princes at ſome times may have occaſion for, it is manifeſt that this Apprehenſion of the Authority-Royal is nothing elſe, but a *Chimera* ſet up to oppoſe the growing Proſperity of this Nation.

There is another ſort of People yet more unreaſonable; but we ſhall anſwer them with the reſt, and they'l tell ye, (taking every thing at worſt) that we are not ſure to be always at peace with our Neighbours, and if there ſhould happen a War, how much the Companies Shipping would be expoſed to the Enemy, for they make a great Queſtion, whether the State of *France* would ever concern themſelves ſo far in the Quarrel, as their Neighbours do upon the like occaſion: for ſay they, Traffique being the Chief, and almoſt the only Support of our Neighbours, it is their Intereſt to maintain their Commerce with their Lives and Fortunes: whereas *France* that lives upon it ſelf, and has within it ſelf ſo ſure a Bottom of Strength and Subſiſtence, will not think it ſelf much the Poorer for the Loſs of a Merchants Fleet; ſo that the Kings Buſineſs will be to ſecure his Frontiers, and look to his Gariſons, without charging himſelf with *Armado's* to Protect us in our Trade. Sure theſe people do not heed what they ſay, for they confute themſelves with their own Objections. Do they confeſs, that our Neighbours in a Country not

o good as *France*, have yet kept up their Trading a-gainſt all Oppoſers; and do they now Queſtion, whether His Majeſty will uphold us in ours? What colour have they for a Perſwaſion, that the ſtronger ſhould not do that now, which they themſelves acknowledge to have been done already by the Weaker? *Not that they make any doubt of the Kings Power*, they'l tell ye; *but perhaps there will not be ſo much Care taken as might be.* They are Ignorant then it ſeems, or would be thought ſo, of what his Majeſty does every day. I do not ſpeak of his Univerſal Vigilance over all his Dominions; but of the ſpecial care he takes for the Protecting of his People in a Forreign Trade. They do not know I perceive, that it coſts the King at leaſt four Millions a year, to entertain a Liberty of Ordinary Commerce, both in the *Eaſt* and *Weſtern Ocean*. And that it is upon this Accompt, that his Majeſty is now at the Charge of a Navy Royal, to ſuppreſs the *Corſares* of *Algiers*: That it is, for this very End, that he Entertains another Squadron, to defend our Merchants from the Pirates of *Gallicia*. They are ſtrangers doubtleſs to all theſe things, without which, it were not poſſible they ſhould fall foul upon ſo groſs a Miſtake. Is it not known, that his Majeſty does all this, for the ſupport of a very Ordinary Traffique, and can any man Imagine, that he will do leſs for the Maintenance of ſo much a Greater, and more Honourable Commerce? No man can perſwade himſelf, that the King would refuſe the ſame Countenance and Aſſiſtance to the Intereſt of a Company, wherein the whole State is Concerned, which at this very day his Majeſty is pleaſed to allow in Favour of Particular Merchants. We have ſeen in times of War, what Pains has been taken for the Providing of our Frontiers; and a Battel fought ſome times, only to hinder the taking of a ſmal Town, or to ſecure a Paſs upon a River. Much more then will his Majeſty provide for the ſafety of a Fleet, that has the Prayers and

Wiſhes

Wiſhes of all *France* engaged in the Venture. In a Word, if *Intereſt* and *Honour* be the moſt Powerful Motives of Human Reſolutions; and the two Poles upon which are turned the Affairs of Princes, as well as of Privat Perſons, there can be no Queſtion, but the King will Employ his Power upon all occaſions to preſerve the Company from danger. For, that it is his Majeſties Intereſt ſo to do, is clear; not only in regard of his Part in the Stock of the Company; but by reaſon of the infinite Number of Merchandizes, and Merchants that this Traffique will draw into the Kingdom, to the great Advantage of the Revenue of his Majeſties Farms, and Cuſtoms. So that a man may rationally compute, that *The Profit of this Commerce, when it ſhal be once Eſtabliſhed, will be better to the King, than the two beſt Provinces in his Kingdom.* Nor is it leſs manifeſt that His Majeſty is Engaged in Honour, than in Intereſt, ſince without Diſpute, it is a point of Honour for a Prince not to ſuffer his People, to be Cruſht in a Deſign undertaken by his Allowance, and Authority. So that to ask, if the King will vigorouſly maintain us both in Peace, and War, having ſo many Conſiderations to engage him to it, would be but a kind of ſenſeleſs, and unmannerly Queſtion. If Neceſſity, which many times forces great Actions from mean Perſons, has been able to produce thoſe fair Reſolutions, which we admire in our Neighbours: How much more ſhal the true Love of Glory and Juſtice operate upon the Souls of Princes. The firſt are carried on by a kind of Violence: The other govern their Actions by Choice and Reaſon. Thoſe at the beſt, are but wiſe enough to avoid Miſchiefs; but theſe are the Ordinary Inſtruments of our greateſt Good. Let us trouble our ſelves no further than about our Fleets, ſince they are under the Care of One of the beſt Princes of the Univerſe: and that miraculous Power, which ſubjects all other Powers to it ſelf, and attends him where ever he goes, ſhal influ-

ence our new Navigators, and protect them both againſt Enemies, and Storms. Neither let it be thought, that the Conqueſt which we ſhal make in his Name, will be leſs his Majeſties Care, than his other Poſſeſſions: or that he will ever endure to have his Lillies torn up, where ever they ſhal have taken Root. There is a certain inviſible Chain that Links together the ſeveral Parts of the World, though never ſo remote, when they belong to the ſame Maſter: So that 'tis not poſſible to ſhake the One, without Violence to the Other. It is then upon the Reſolution and Power of his Majeſty, that we may confidently Repoſe for the Iſſue of this Enterprize, which begining upon a time, when this Great Monarch is in effect the Arbitrator of all Europe; when all Princes make it their Buſineſs to preſerve his Friendſhip, and avoid his diſpleaſure. What Queſtion is to be made, but that the Reputation of his Greatneſs will carry good Fortune and Succeſs to our *Colonies?*

Join your ſelves then my Maſters, Join your ſelves my Generous Countrey-men in the purſuit of a Glorious Diſcovery, which has only been kept from you thus long, by our paſt Diſorders. A Diſcovery that ſhal lead you to Advantages not to be numbred, and which ſhal yet grow in the Hands of our Poſterity. A Diſcovery in fine, that ſhal carry the Fame and Terrour of your Arms into thoſe Quarters of the World, where the *French* Nation it ſelf was never heard of. No more therefore of theſe reproachful Jealouſies, which are ſo unworthy of your ordinary Courage and Vertue: but go on boldly under the Banner of the Invincible *LEWIS*, and be aſſured, that as the Awe and Reverence, which his Glorious Name Imprints upon other Nations, leaves you nothing to fear from Strangers: So from Himſelf, you are certain to receive all the Comforts of his Goodneſs, Munificence and Protection,

ARTICLES

Articles, and Conditions,

Whereupon the Trading Merchants *of this Kingdom do moſt humbly beſeech his Majeſty to grant them his* Declaration, *and the Graces therein contained, for the* Eſtabliſhment *of a* Company *for the* Commerce *of the* Eaſt Indies.

PARIS. 1664.

I.

FIrſt, that his Majeſties Subjects of what Quality or Condition ſoever ſhal be Taken into the Company, for what Sums they pleaſe, without Loſs either of Nobility, or Priviledge, his Majeſty granting them in that Particular, his Royal Diſpenſations: Provided, that under a Thouſand Livers no Share ſhal be admitted; nor any Augmentations under Five Hundred; for the Eaſe of Accompts, Diviſions, and Sales of Actions: A Third Part whereof ſhal be paid down preſently, and go to the Furniſhing of the Firſt Expedition; and the Two other Thirds within Two Years after, by equal Portions, under pain of loſing what is already Advanced, to any man that ſhal fail of paying in his full proportion within the ſaid time: the Money ſo forfeited, remaining to the Benefit, and Stock of the Company.

Allowed.

II. That

II.

That all Strangers (be they the Subjects of what Prince or State ſoever) ſhal have free admittance into the ſaid Company; and ſuch of them as ſhal have ten Thouſand Livers in the Stock, ſhal be reputed as Natives without any further need of Naturalizing; by which means their Kindred tho' Strangers too, ſhal have a Right of *I*nheritance to what Eſtates they ſhal be poſſeſſed of in this Kingdom.

Allowed. Only putting in Twenty Thouſand Livers in ſtead of Ten.

III.

That no Part or Portion belonging to any particulars in the ſaid Company of what Nation ſoever, ſhal be either Seized by the King, or Confiſcated to his Profit; even although they be the Subjects of ſome Prince or State in open Hoſtility againſt his Majeſty.

Allowed.

IV.

That the Directors of the ſaid Company ſhall not be moleſted, either in their Perſons or Eſtates, for, or concerning the Affairs of the ſaid Company: nor ſhall the Eſtate of the ſaid Company be lyable either to be made over, or or Seized, upon the Accompt of any Debt due to His Majeſty, or Arreſted by any other perſon from any of the particular Members thereof.

Allowed.

V.

That ſuch Officers as ſhall have 20000 *Livres* in the ſaid Company, ſhall be diſpenſed their Reſidence: to which otherwiſe, they are obliged by His Majeſties Declaration of *December* laſt, at the Treaſury-Offices, and other places of their Eſtabliſhment: enjoying all their Rights, Allowances and *Fees*, as if they were preſent.

Allowed. Putting 8000 *Livres* in the *Firſt* Place, and 20000 in the *Second*.

VI. That

VI.

That all ſuch as ſhall have to the ſum of 6000 *Livres* in the ſaid *Company*, ſhall enjoy the Priviledge of *Burgers* in the Towns where they live; unleſs *Paris*, *Bordeaux*, and *Bayonne*: in which Places they ſhall not acquire Freedom, unleſs they have the Intereſt of at leaſt *Ten Thouſand Livres* in the ſaid *Company*.

Allowed Putting 8000 *Livres* in the *Firſt* Place and 20000 in the *Second*.

VII.

That all ſuch as ſhall be willing to enter into the ſaid *Company*, ſhall be obliged to declare themſelves within *Six Moneths* to Commence from the Reading, and Regiſtring of the *Declaration* in the Parliament of *Paris*: after which time no more ſhall be admitted. And They that ſhall have furniſhed themſelves accordingly, ſhall have liberty within *Three Months* after the *Regiſtring* of the ſaid *Declaration* to *Nominate* and *Eſtabliſh* one *Moyety* of the *Directors* of *Paris* for the *Chamber General* of the ſaid *Company* and the Reſt ſhall be named within the aforeſaid Term of *Six Months*.

Allowed upon Condition that all thoſe that have a mind to engage in the ſaid Company ſhall declare themſelves, and ſubſcribe at the firſt Aſſembly; and at the ſame time chuſe 12 *Sindicks* to take care of what is to be done in order to the ſettlement of the *Company* till the *Directors* ſhall be nominated.

VIII.

That there ſhall be eſtabliſhed a Chamber of *Direction-General* of the Affairs of the ſaid *Company* in the Town of *Paris* only, to conſiſt of *One and twenty Directors*, and no more: Twelve whereof to be of *Paris*, and the other Nine, of the *Provinces*; to be named and Choſen: That is, the Twelve by the perſons concerned in the Town of *Paris*, and the other Nine by the intereſſed Perſons in the ſaid *Provinces*, every one in his Diviſion; for every *Town* or *Province* ſhall have a Right of *Nomination*, which ſhall

be ordered by the Chamber of Direction General after the ſettlement of it, in Proportion to the Stock that every Town ſhall have brought into the ſaid Company, or otherwiſe, as ſhall be thought convenient ; and for the future, the Elections ſhall be always made after this matter.

Allowed,

IX.

In the mean while, till the ſaid Company ſhall be Eſtabliſhed as aforeſaid, for the firſt time, the ſaid Nine Directors for the *Provinces* ſhall be choſen, and named by the *Intereſſed Parties* in the ſaid Towns and Provinces Reſpectively; (but provided, that it may not be drawn into Conſequence for the time to come) That is to ſay, One from each of the Towns of *Rouen*, *Nantes*, *St. Malo*, *Rochelle*, *Bordeaux*, *Marſeilles*, *Tours*, *Lyons*, and *Dunkerque*, or ſuch other Towns of the Kingdom, as ſhall have the moſt Conſiderable Intereſt in the *Company*. And in caſe, that any of the ſaid Towns ſhall be found without ſome Intereſſed perſon in it, there ſhall be Two named out of ſuch other Town, as ſhall be choſen by the *Six Directors* named for *Paris*. And it ſhall be lawful for the *Parties* Intereſſed in each of the ſaid Towns reſpectively, to name their *Caiſſier* for the receiving of their Moneys, and remitting them to the *Caſſier* of the Town of *Paris*: who ſhall be named for the firſt time by the ſix Directors of *Paris*, and ſo to continue till the Chambers General ſhall be eſtabliſhed.

Allowed.

X.

That none ſhall be capable of being Directors, but Merchants trading, and without Offices, except ſuch of the Kings Secretaries as have dealt formerly in Commerce: Only it ſhall be lawful to admit two Burgers into the Number of the *Directors*, although they have never meddled with

with Traffique: Provided, that they be Perſons that have no Offices, and that no more be taken into the ſaid Chamber upon any Ground whatſoever; the Company being perpetually to conſiſt at the leaſt of Three Fourths of Negotiating Merchants, and without Offices: Neither ſhal any man have a Vote in the Election of the Directors, unleſs he has at leaſt Ten Thouſand Livres in the Company: Nor be choſen a Director for *Paris* without Twenty Thouſand Livres at leaſt; nor for the Provinces under Ten Thouſand Livres; all in the Intereſt of the ſaid Company.

Allowed.

XI.

That it ſhal be lawful for the Chamber of Direction General, to conſtitute Chambers of Particular Direction, in ſuch Numbers and Places as they ſhal find moſt agreeable to the Intereſt and Benefit of the ſaid Company; and likewiſe to Regulate the Number of the Directors of the ſaid Particular Chambers.

Allowed.

XII.

That all the Accompts of the Chambers of Direction particular of the Provinces, ſhal be ſent from ſix Months, to ſix Months, to the Chamber of Direction General at *Paris*; where the Accompt-Books ſhal be View'd, Examined, and Stated, and the Profits afterward divided by the ſaid Chamber of Direction General, as they ſhal think meet.

Allowed.

XIII.

That the ſaid Chambers of Direction General, and Particular, ſhal name ſuch Officers as ſhal be found neceſſary for keeping the Caſh, Books, and Papers of Accompts, for Buying and Selling; for taking Care of all Proviſions, and Equipage; paying of Wages, and other ordinary Expenſes every man in his proper place.

Allowed.

XIV.

That the Firſt Directors ſhal continue in Power for the firſt Seven Years, after which time there ſhal be Two Changed every Year at *Paris*, and One in the Other Chambers; and the Firſt, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Changes of thoſe that go out, ſhal be made by Lot: And in Caſe of Death of any of the Directors, within the firſt Seven Years, the other Directors ſhal have power to fill that Vacancy with a New Choice; and it ſhal be permitted to Chuſe the ſame Director again, after ſix years Reſpite from the Execution of his Office: Nor ſhal it be lawful for Father and Son, or Son in Law; nor for Brothers, and Brothers in Law to be Directors at the ſame time; and his Majeſty ſhal be further ſupplicated to confer upon the ſaid Directors certain Titles of Honour, and Priviledges, that may deſcend to their Poſterity.

Allowed.

XV.

That the Directors of the ſaid Chambers General and Particular, ſhal Reſide by Turns, each Man his Month, to begin with the Ancienteſt, in each of them ſeverally.

Allowed.

XVI.

That the ſaid Chamber of General Direction ſhal be Empowred to make Statutes, and Rules for the Benefit, and Advantage of the ſaid Company, which in Caſe of need ſhal be moſt humbly preſented to his Mrjeſty, for the obtaining of his Royal Confirmation.

Allowed.

XVII.

That the ſaid Chamber ſhal make a General Accompt every ſix Years, of the Eſtate of the ſaid Company, and no man ſhal be ſuffered to withdraw himſelf, unleſs by the Sale

of

of his Action to ſome one or other of the ſaid Company, who ſhal always uphold and maintain the ſame Right, ſo that the Stock be not diminiſhed.

Allowed.

XVIII.

That his Majeſty will grant to the ſaid Company (to the Excluſion of all other his Subjects) the Sole Power of Traffique and Navigation, from the *Cape of good Hope*, through out all *India*, and the *Eaſtern Seas:* Nay even from the *Streight* of *Magellan*, and the *Maire* throughout the *Southern Seas*, for the Term of Fifty Years, to begin from the ſetting out of the Firſt Shipping from this Kingdom; during which time his Majeſty ſhal be deſired expreſly to inhibite all other Perſons from entring upon the ſaid Voyage, and Commerce; under pain of Forfeiting all their Veſſels, Arms, Munitions, and Merchandiſe, to be applyed to the Profit of the ſaid Company. To which Company his Majeſty ſhal grant Licenſe to ſend Gold and Silver, as much as ſhall be thought needful, both into the Iſle of *Madagaſcar*, and the *Eaſt-Indies*, and other Places of the ſaid Commerce; all Laws and Ordinances to the Contrary notwithſtanding.

Allowed for Fifty Years. The Exporting of *Gold* and *Silver* being a Thing never publickly permitted in any State, and yet at preſent acknowledged to be neceſſary. It ſhal be allowed, by a particular Permiſſion, to remain in the Hands of the *Directors* of the ſaid Company.

XIX.

That his Majeſty ſhal be likewiſe Requeſted to grant unto the ſaid Company, the Propriety, and Lordſhip of all thoſe Lands, Places and Iſles, which they ſhal either gain from the Enemies of his Majeſty, or otherwiſe make themſelves Maſters of, whether as Abandoned, uninhabited, or the poſſeſſion of *Barbarians*.

Allowed.

XX.

That his Majeſty ſhal comprehend in the ſaid Conceſſion the Propriety of the Iſle of *Madagaſcar*, or St. *Laurence*, with the Neighbouring Iſlands, Forts, Habitations and Colonies

lonies belonging unto any of his Subjects: Concerning which his Majeſty ſhal be moſt humbly deſired to permit the Company to a fair Treaty, with thoſe who may have formerly obtained the Grant thereof from his Majeſty; or if not, that Comiſſioners may be appointed for the Examination of the Intereſt of all Parties therein concerned, for the Indemnification of the Proprietors, that the Company may quietly enjoy the ſame.

Allowed.

XXI.

That the Propriety of the ſaid Iſles and things belonging to the ſaid Company, may remain unto them after the Expiration of the Grant, to diſpoſe of according to their own pleaſure, and as their proper Inheritance.

Allowed.

XXII.

That his *Majeſty* ſhall vouchſafe, to give and grant to the ſaid Company, over and above the Juriſdictions annexed to the Seignory and Propriety heretofore granted, for the ſaid Iſle of *Madagaſcar*, and others round about it, full Power and Authority, to Eſtabliſh Judges for the Exerciſe of Soveraign Juſtice, throughout the whole Extent of the ſaid Countries, and ſuch other as they ſhall ſubject to the Obedience of his Majeſty, even over the *French* themſelves who ſhall there inhabite; provided always, that the ſaid Company ſhall name to his Majeſty the perſons whom they ſhall chooſe, for the Exerciſe of the ſaid Soveraign Juſtice, who ſhall ſwear Allegiance to his Majeſty; and Execute Juſtice, and Iſſue out all their Orders and Decrees in his Majeſties Name To which effect, his Majeſty (if he pleaſes) ſhall Impower and Authorize them by Patent, or Commiſſion under his Great Seal.

Allowed. Even to all Priviledges of Juſtice and Admiralty, in Matters concerning Sea Affairs, throughout the whole extent of the ſaid Countries.

XXIII.

That for the Execution of Decrees, and for all Acts where his

his *Majeſties* Seal ſhall be neceſſary, there ſhall be one Eſtabliſhed, and put into the hands of him, that ſhall preſide over the ſaid Soveraign Juſtice.

Allowed.

XXIV.

That the Officers conſtituted for the ſaid Soveraign Juſtice, ſhall be Authorized to Conſtitute likewiſe ſuch a number of Subordinate Officers, and in ſuch places as they ſhal l think meet, to be by them ſupplyed with Commiſſions under the Name and Seal of his *Majeſty*.

Allowed.

XXV.

That for Military Command, the ſaid Company ſhall name to his Majeſty a Governour-General of the Country, and of ſuch other Countries as ſhall be ſubdned; whom his Majeſty ſhall be humbly deſired to Authorize with a Commiſſion, and to receive his Oath of Fidelity. and in caſe that the ſaid Company ſhall not be well ſatisfied with his Conduct, that they may be at Liberty to name ſome other to be likewiſe Impowered by his Majeſty.

Allowed.

XXVI.

That his Majeſty will be pleaſed to grant to the ſaid Company, the Power and Authority of ſettling Garriſons in all the places before mentioned, and in ſuch other as ſhall be Conquered or Built, conſiſting of what numbers the Company ſhall think neceſſary: and therein to put Arms, Canon and Ammunition; and to caſt Guns and other Arms in what place ſoever, and in what Quantity ſoever they ſhall think needful; with his Majeſties Arms imprinted upon them, and underneath them the Arms of the ſaid Company; which ſhall be Authorized to provide for the Safety of the ſaid places, as by them ſhall be thought Expedient. The Officers and Commanders of the ſaid places,

to

to be totally dependent, and put in or out at the pleaſure of the ſaid Company; provided always, that they ſhall all ſwear Allegiance to the King, and after that, take a particular Oath to the ſaid Company, in Conſideration of Traffique and Commerce.

Allowed.

XXVII.

That his Majeſty ſhall vouchſafe to Authorize the ſaid Company, to ſend Ambaſſadours in his Majeſties Name to the King of *India*, and to Treat with them, either upon Peace or Truce, or even to declare War with them, and to do all other Acts which ſhall be deemed by the Company, to be for the Advantage of the ſaid Commerce.

Allowed.

XXVIII.

That the Directors of the Chamber-General and Particular, ſhall keep Regiſter-Books of all the Wages and Sallaries which they ſhall give to their Officers, Servants, Clerks, Workmen, Souldiers and others; which Books ſhall be good Evidence in Court, and ſerve for the Deciſion of Queſtions, upon any Demand or Pretenſion againſt the ſaid Company.

Allowed.

XXIX.

That of all Differences that ſhall ariſe upon what Cauſe ſoever, concerning the ſaid Company, betwixt two or more Directors, or Intereſſed perſons, and any one Particular, touching the Affairs of the ſaid Company, the Circumſtances and Dependances ſhall be judged and determined by the Conſulary Juſtice, to the excluſion of all others, whereof the Sentences and Judgements ſhall be executed Soveraignly and without Appeall, as far as 1500 *Livres*; and in caſes of an higher Concern, the Judgements and Sentences ſhall be executed, notwithſtanding all Oppoſitions and Appeals whatſoever: The Appeal to be brought before the Ordinary

Ordinary Judges that are properly to take Cognizance of the Matter: to which Effect, his Majesty shall be desired to Establish the Consulary Justice before spoken of, in the Town where it is not; and wheresoever else his Majesty shall find it necessary.

Allowed.

XXX.

That all Criminal Matters, wherein any of the said Company shall be a Party, whether as Plaintiff or Defendent, shall be Determined by the Ordinary Judges, provided always, that for no Cause or Pretext whatsoever, the Criminal shall ever carry along with it the Civil; which shall be still judged as is aforesaid.

Allowed.

XXXI.

That his Majesty shall have the goodness to promise to the said Company, Protection and Defence against all Opposers, and by Force of Arms, to maintain them upon all Occasions, in the entire freedom of their Commerce & Navigation, & see them repaired in case of any Injuries or Affronts offered them. And in Case further of any Design against the said Company, to appoint them such Convoys both forward and backward, at his proper Charge and Expense; as may be sufficient to secure the Company, not only over all the Coasts of *Europe* and *Africa*, but even as far as *India* it self.

Allowed.

XXXII.

That his Majesty shall be pleased to advance at present out of his own Coffers, a Fifth part of the whole Expense for the three first Expeditions; so that so soon as ever the Person Authorized for the receiving of the Moneys, shall be named by the Company, his Majesty shall cause to be delivered into his hand Three hundred thousand *Livres*:

and upon his receiving of Four hundred thouſand *Livres* from the Perſons engaged, his Majeſty ſhall cauſe to be delivered Three hundred thouſand *Livres* more, and ſo forward to Three fifths for the firſt year, which comes to One fifth upon the whole; (his Majeſty furniſhing nothing at all for the two following years) by vertue of which Advance, his Majeſty will give a Foundation to the Eſtabliſhment of the ſaid Company, which will be of ſo great Advantage to the State.

Allowed.

XXXIII.

That his Majeſty ſhall be graciouſly pleaſed, to lend the ſaid Sum to the ſaid Company, without Intereſt; and even without any Participation in the ſaid Adventure, his Majeſty contenting himſelf with the Companies Obligation of paying back the ſaid Sum, without Intereſt at the end of ten years, to reckon from the day whereupon the ſaid Company ſhall have perfected their firſt Capital Stock; and in caſe that at the end of the ſaid ten Year, it ſhould appear by a General Accompt then to be made, that the ſaid Company had loſt of their Capital, that the whole Damnage ſhall fall upon that Sum which his Majeſty ſhall have advanced. And his ſaid Majeſty ſhall be moſt humbly deſired, upon Valuation of the Eſtate of the Company (to ſee whether they have gained or loſt) not to reckon upon Immoveables, Fortifications, Canon and Ammunitions; and to content himſelf with ſuch Accompt as ſhall be ſtated by the Company, without bringing them to any further Reckoning before the Chamber of Accompts, or elſewhere.

Allowed, Provided, that the whole Eſtate of the ſaid Company, ſhall be valued *bonâ fide* by the Chamber of Direction General.

XXXIV.

That the Merchandiſes that ſhall come from the *Indies*, and be conſumed in *France*, ſhall pay but half the Duties charged upon them by his Majeſties Rates, for his Rights

of

of the five Groſs Farms; which Moyety ſhall be regulated at ſo much *per Cent:* and for ſuch Commodities as ſhall be ſent into Forreign Countries, or Countries exempt from Cuſtom, whether by Sea or Land, they ſhall pay no Duties at all, either in or out: and ſhall be depoſited in their Store-houſes, of the Cuſtoms and Harbours of the places where they Arrive; where there are any ſuch, and where there are none, they ſhall be marked with *Lead*, and laid up till they are to be taken away; at which places an Account of them ſhall be given to the perſons Intereſſed, or to the Clerk of the ſaid five Groſs Farms, ſigned by one of the Directors of the ſaid Company: and upon their Removal elſe-where, their ſhall be an Obligation of bringing back within a certain time, a Receipt, with Proof that they are Arrived: and as to Merchandizes unknown, and not as yet rated, they ſhall pay three *per Cent.* according to the Valuation that ſhall be made of them, by the Chamber-General of the ſaid Company.

Allowed, as to the Exemption of all Duties, the Valuation of Commodities unknown by the Chamber-General, and the Regulation of the Rights upon them at three *per Cent* And in regard that the Diſcharge of one half of the Duties of Entry, cannot be granted in manner as is deſired; for the Reaſons which have already appeared upon the Debate, there ſhall be allowed in ſtead thereof, a certain Sum upon the Return of each Veſſel coming from the *Indies*, according to the Regulation that ſhall be made thereupon.

XXXV.

That Wood, and other Neceſſaries for building of the Ships of the ſaid Company, ſhall be Exempt from all Duties of Entry; the Veſſels and Merchandizes free from the Dutys of Admiralty, and Wood; and the Munitions of War, Victuals, and other things neceſſary for Victuallings and Embarquings requiſite for the ſaid Company, ſhall be free from all Rights of in and out, during the Term of the preſent Priviledge.

Allowed. Veſſels bought be the Company, free of Admirals Dues.

XXXVI.

XXXVI.

That his Majeſty ſhal order the furniſhing of the ſaid Company for their Proviſions and Equipages, with the Quantity of a Hundred Meaſures of *Salt*, or what other number the ſaid Company ſhal have occaſion for, in the Town of *Haure de Grace*, by the Hand of the Clerk of the Store of that Town, and at the Merchants Price: provided always, that the Company ſhal deal fairly in the buſineſs, without abuſing the Grant.

Allowed.

XXXVII.

That his Majeſty ſhal permit the ſaid Company to ſettle *Eccleſiaſticks* in the ſaid Iſles of *Madagaſcar*, and other places where they ſhal plant themſelves, in ſuch Number, and of ſuch Quality as the Company ſhal judge Convenient.

Allowed.

XXXVIII.

That his Majeſty ſhal be moſt humbly deſired not to grant any Letters of Protection, Reſpit, Evocation, or Delay, to any that ſhal have bought the Goods of the ſaid Company, or Sold any thing to their Uſe and Service, that ſo the Company may be always in Condition to Compel their Debtors to make juſt payment, according to the Form and Tenor of their Obligations.

Allowed.

XXXIX.

That his Majeſty ſhal be moſt humbly deſired, to vouchſafe that the *Sieurs Pocquelin Pere*, *Maillet Pere*, *le Brun*, *de Faverolles*, *Cadeau*, *Samſon*, *Simonet*, *Jabac* & *Scot*, Merchants; may preſent theſe Articles, and receive his Pleaſure thereupon: This Eſtabliſhment being of Infinite Advantage, both to his Majeſties Kingdom, and all his Subjects, who ſhal redouble their Vows and Prayers for the long Continuance of his Majeſties Health.

Allowed.

XL.

That his Majeſty be moſt humbly deſired, by the Deputies above-named, to vouchſafe, that in caſe any thing ſhal appear to be omitted in theſe preſent Articles they may be allowed to deliver *Memorials* of them, to what Perſons he ſhal be pleaſed to appoint, to make Report thereof to his Majeſty, and to be made uſe of in his *Declaration*, which ſhal be Iſſued in Conſequence of this preſent Petition.

Examined and Concluded in Our Council, the laſt day of May 1664.

Signed LOVIS, *and underneath* DE LYONNE.

Done *and* Reſolved *at the Aſſembly, held by his Majeſties Gracious Permiſſion, at the Houſe of* Monſieur Faverolles, *Merchant at* Paris, Tueſday, *May* 26. 1664.

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